

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action¹, the Examiner rejected claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,828,374 to Coleman et al. ("*Coleman*"). For the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully traverse.

Independent claim 1 recites, for example, a computer program product comprising instructions operable to cause data processing apparatus to:

receive user input from a user to establish a normal mode or a decoupled mode of user interface operation; and
receive navigation input, distinct from the user input, to navigate from one user interface element to another user interface element, where in the normal mode, navigation to an independent element with the navigation input is sufficient to cause the independent element to become the selected element, and where in the decoupled mode, navigation to an independent element does not change which, if any, of the independent elements is the selected element

(emphasis added). *Coleman* does not teach or suggest a navigation input that is sufficient to cause an independent element to become a selected element, where the navigation input is distinct from a user input to establish a normal or decoupled mode.

Coleman discloses a help index that can be searched using an "alpha scroll bar" (*Coleman*, Fig. 8, and col. 10, line 51 to col. 11, line 14). Letters on the alpha scroll bar can be selected by a number of methods, including "placing [a] cursor over a portion of slider 175, depressing [mouse] switch 46 and dragging the cursor and slider over the desired letter ... [and] releas[ing] [mouse] switch 46," (*Coleman*, col. 11, lines 20-23).

¹ The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

When a letter in the alpha scroll bar is selected, help index entries beginning with the selected letter are displayed (*Coleman*, col. 11, lines 64-66).

The Examiner asserts that *Coleman* discloses a “normal mode” that is entered by releasing the mouse switch, and that dragging the cursor and slider correspond to the claimed navigation input (Office Action at pp. 2-3). However, in the normal mode, the claimed navigation input is “sufficient to cause the independent element to become the selected element.” In contrast, the letter is not selected in *Coleman* until the switch is released. Thus, dragging the cursor and slider is not sufficient to cause the letter to be selected because the switch must be released first, and therefore dragging the cursor and slider alone cannot correspond to the claimed “navigation input [] sufficient to cause the independent element to become the selected element.”

Further, the Examiner asserts that depressing the mouse switch in *Coleman* establishes a decoupled mode (Office Action at p. 3). *Coleman* discloses dragging the cursor and slider after pressing the mouse switch. Thus, assuming the Examiner is correct, the portions of *Coleman* relied up on by the Examiner disclose dragging the cursor and slider in the decoupled mode, and not the normal mode. As discussed, *Coleman* does not disclose a “navigation input [] sufficient to cause the independent element to become the selected element,” and even if *Coleman* did, the Examiner’s position appears to be that *Coleman* discloses as much in a decoupled mode. In contrast, the claimed navigation input is “sufficient to cause the independent element to become the selected element” in the “normal mode.”

Coleman discloses several other methods by which letters on the alpha scroll bar can be selected, one of which, involving directly dragging the slider with the cursor (the "slider method"), is discussed above, and relied upon primarily by the Examiner. However, *Coleman* discloses several other methods for selecting a letter on the alpha scroll bar (*Coleman*, col. 11, lines 24-54). One of these methods (the "scroll bar method"), involves moving the slider

"... on the alpha scroll bar 176 by placing the cursor 44 over the vertical scroll bar 250 and depressing [mouse] switch 46. Upon sensing the placement of the cursor 44 over scroll bar 250 and the depression of the [mouse] switch 46, the CPU 52 scrolls through the listing of entries in a direction toward the cursor until the [mouse] switch 46 is released ... [and then] displays the slider over the character representing the current entry at the top of the entry list."

(*Coleman*, col. 11, lines 29-37). The Examiner cites to portions of this method in identifying claim limitations allegedly disclosed by *Coleman*. (Office Action at p. 3).

In particular, the Examiner apparently identifies the placement of the cursor over the scroll bar as corresponding to the claimed navigation input, and the release of the mouse switch as corresponding to the claimed user input in the normal mode (Office Action at p. 3). However, assuming displaying the slider over the character corresponds to the claimed "caus[ing] the independent element to become the selected element," *Coleman* discloses placing the cursor over the scroll bar before the switch is released, i.e. before *Coleman* enters the alleged "normal mode." Thus, placing the cursor over the switch cannot correspond to the claimed navigation input "in the normal mode" because *Coleman* does not enter the alleged "normal mode" until the switch is released.

This misinterpretation of this scroll bar method is very similar to the misinterpretation of the slider method discussed previously. In both cases the Examiner identifies inputs in *Coleman* that allegedly correspond to the claimed navigation input, but are not sufficient to cause a letter to be selected on the alpha scroll bar without further inputs from the mouse switch that allegedly correspond to the claimed user input to establish a normal or decoupled mode. As the claimed navigation input in the normal mode is both “sufficient to cause an independent element to become a selected element” and “distinct from a user input to establish a normal or decoupled mode,” *Coleman* does not disclose such a navigation input.

Although of different scope, independent claims 8 and 15 recite features similar to those of claim 1 already discussed. Claims 1-7 depend from claim 1, and claims 9-14 depend from claim 8. *Coleman* therefore does not anticipate claims 2-15 for at least the same reasons set forth above in connection with claim 1. Therefore, Applicants request that the rejection of the pending claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

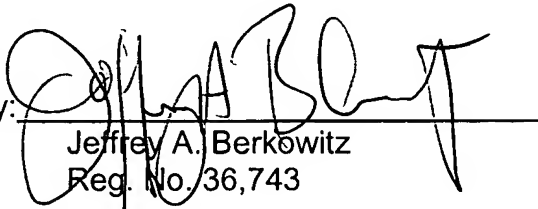
Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:


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